



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 6, 2006

S. 2751

National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on September 29, 2006*

SUMMARY

S. 2751 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish an integrated drought information system within the National Weather Service. The new system would provide early warnings of droughts by collecting and disseminating information and would coordinate federal research on this subject. For these purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of between \$8 million and \$11 million a year over the 2007-2012 period.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2751 would cost \$3 million in 2007 and \$55 million over the 2007-2012 period. (An additional \$4 million would be spent after 2012.) CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

S. 2751 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2751 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	8	9	10	10	11	11
Estimated Outlays	3	9	10	11	11	11

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2751 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2007 and that the entire amounts authorized for the drought information system will be appropriated for each year. Outlays for the new system have been estimated on the basis of spending patterns for similar NOAA programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2751 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Those governments would benefit from information provided by the drought forecast program authorized by the bill.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE:

On June 9, 2006, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 5136, the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, but S. 2751 contains lower authorization levels. The CBO cost estimates reflect that difference.

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